



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/083,170	02/26/2002	Vincent Formale	RSW920010215US1	5144
46270	7590	10/31/2007	EXAMINER	
IBM CORPORATION (SYL-RSW) C/O SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP 1101 MARKET STREET, SUITE 2600 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107			OYEBISI, OJO O	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3694				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/31/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/083,170	FORMALE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	OJO O. OYEBISI	3694

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

In the amendment filed on 08/21/2007, the following have occurred: claims 1 and 11 have been amended, and claims 1-30 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
2. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chapter Seven (Chapter 7 hereinafter, Disposition Sections 7.1, <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/UPA/chapter%207.html>).

Re claims 1, 2 and 3. Chapter 7 discloses a method of managing assets controlled by members of an organization, said organization having a central server configured to access data and software systems of said organization (on-line disposal request, see pg 5, line 16), comprising the steps of: identifying one or more of said assets for management and submitting an asset disposition request to said central server (i.e., identify items which are excess, see pg 5 line 27); At the central server, automatically, based on receipt of said asset disposition request, obtaining all required approvals for said asset disposition request; (see pg 7 lines 21-42), at the central server automatically, based on said obtaining of all required approvals, effecting said asset disposition request (i.e., PMO will proceed with processing the disposition request, see pg7 line 42); at the central server and automatically modifying said data to reflect said

effected disposition request (i.e., update CAMS record with sales/scrap data per SPS disposal report, see pg 12 #8) (see pgs 1-19).

Re claim 4. Chapter 7 discloses a method wherein said data includes asset inventory data, personnel data, and financial data, and wherein said software systems of said organization include an automated routing system (i.e., prism routing system, see pg 2 under overview) coupled to said asset inventory data, said personnel data, and said financial data, said step of automatically obtaining all required approvals comprising at least the steps of: identifying from said asset inventory data all assets affected by said asset disposition request; determining from if said identified assets meet a predetermined disposition criteria (see pg 5 lines 26-41, also see pg 9); if said predetermined disposition criteria has been met (see pg 7 line 21), identifying from said personnel data any personnel required to approve said asset disposition request (see pg 7 lines 21-25); requesting approvals from said identified personnel using said automated routing system (see pg 7 lines 21-42); and receiving said approvals from said identified personnel using said automated routing system (see pg 7 lines 21-42).

Re claims 5, 6-10. Chapter 7 discloses a method wherein said step of automatically effecting said asset disposition request comprises at least the steps of: changing the control status of identified assets in accordance with said asset disposition request; notifying, using said automated routing system, any member of said organization responsible for effecting said disposition request; receiving, from said member(s) of said organization responsible for effecting said disposition request, confirmation that said asset disposition request has been effected; and notifying, using said automated routing

system, all members of said organization affected by said disposition (see pg 7 lines 21-42, also see pg 5 lines 26-41) (see pgs 1-19).

Re claims 11, 12 and 13. Chapter 7 discloses a system for managing assets controlled by members of an organization, said organization having a central server configured to access data and software systems of said organization (on-line disposal request, see pg 5, line 16), comprising: means for identifying one or more of said assets for management and submitting an asset disposition request to said central server (i.e., identify items which are excess, see pg 5 line 27); means for automatically, at the central server, based on receipt of said asset disposition request, obtaining all required approvals for said asset disposition request (see pg 7 lines 21-42); means for automatically, at the central server, based on said obtaining of all required approvals, effecting said asset disposition request (i.e., PMO will proceed with processing the disposition request, see pg7 line 42); and means for automatically, at the central server, modifying said data to reflect said effected disposition request (i.e., update CAMS record with sales/scrap data per SPS disposal report, see pg 12 #8) (see pgs 1-19)

Re claim 14. Chapter 7 further discloses a system as set forth in claim 11, wherein said data includes asset inventory data, personnel data, and financial data, and wherein said software systems of said organization include an automated routing system (i.e., prism routing system, see pg 2 under overview) coupled to said asset inventory data, said personnel data, and said financial data, said means for automatically obtaining all required approvals comprising at least: means for identifying from said asset inventory data all assets affected by said asset disposition request; means for determining if said

identified asset(s) meet a predetermined disposition criteria; means for identifying from said personnel data, if said predetermined disposition criteria has been met (see pg 5 lines 26-41, also see pg 9), any personnel required to approve said asset disposition request; means for requesting approvals from said identified personnel using said automated routing system (see pg 7 lines 21-42); and means for receiving said approvals from said identified personnel using said automated routing system (see pg 7 lines 21-42).

Re claims 15, 16-20. Chapter 7 further discloses a system, wherein said means for automatically effecting said asset disposition request comprises at least: means for changing the control status of identified assets in accordance with said asset disposition request; means for notifying any member of said organization responsible for effecting said disposition request; means for receiving, from said member(s) of said organization responsible for effecting said disposition request, confirmation that said asset disposition request has been effected; and means for notifying all members of said organization affected by said disposition (see pg 7 lines 21-42, also see pg 5 lines 26-41) (see pgs 1-19).

Re claims 21, 22 and 23. Chapter 7 further discloses a computer program product for managing assets controlled by members of an organization, said organization having a central server configured to access data and software systems of said organization, the computer program product comprising a computer-readable storage medium having computer-readable program code embodied in the medium, the computer-readable program code comprising: computer-readable program code that identifies one or more

Art Unit: 3694

of said assets for management and submits an asset disposition request to said central server (i.e., identify items which are excess, see pg 5 line 27, also see pg 7 lines 21-42); computer-readable program code that automatically, based on receipt of said asset disposition request, obtains all required approvals for said asset disposition request (see pg 7 lines 21-42); computer-readable program code that automatically, based on said obtaining of all required approvals (i.e., PMO will proceed with processing the disposition request, see pg7 line 42), effects said asset disposition request; and computer-readable program code that automatically modifies said data to reflect said effected disposition request (i.e., update CAMS record with sales/scrap data per SPS disposal report, see pg 12 #8) (see pgs 1-19).

Re claim 24. Chapter 7 discloses a computer program product, wherein said data includes asset inventory data, personnel data, and financial data, and wherein said software systems of said organization include an automated routing system (i.e., prism routing system, see pg 2 under overview) coupled to said asset inventory data, said personnel data, and said financial data, and wherein the computer-readable program code that automatically obtains all required approvals comprises at least: computer-readable program code that identifies from said asset inventory data all assets affected by said asset disposition request; computer-readable program code that determines if said identified assets meet a predetermined disposition criteria; computer-readable program code that (see pg 5 lines 26-41, also see pg 9), if said predetermined disposition criteria has been met, identifies from said personnel data any personnel required to approve said asset disposition request (see pg 7 lines 21-42); computer-

readable program code that requests approvals from said identified personnel using said automated routing system; and computer-readable program code that receives said approvals from said identified personnel using said automated routing system (see pg 7 lines 26-41) (see pgs 1-19).

Re claim 25, 26-30. Chapter 7 further discloses a computer program product, wherein the computer-readable program code that automatically effects said asset disposition request comprises at least: computer-readable program code that changes the control status of identified assets in accordance with said asset disposition request; computer-readable program code that notifies, using said automated routing system, any member of said organization responsible for effecting said disposition request; computer-readable program code that receives, from said member(s) of said organization responsible for effecting said disposition request, confirmation that said asset disposition request has been effected; and computer-readable program code that notifies, using said automated routing system, all members of said organization affected by said disposition (see pg 7 lines 21-42, also see pg 5 lines 26-41) (see pgs 1-19).\\

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 08/21/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues in substance that the prior art of record, Chapter 7, fails to disclose a central server or any type of computer that will automatically carry out the process of asset management. Contrary to applicant's assertion, Chapter 7 discloses the procedure for processing on-line disposal request. That is to say, Chapter 7 procedure for processing disposal request is fully automated. Chapter 7 further teaches

the use of new technology (Oracle Fixed Assets i.e., CAMS - capital asset management system) and Prism routing system to process on-line disposal requests (see page 2 under overview). The examiner contends that the Capital Asset Management System - CAMS taught by Chapter 7 encompasses the central server disclosed by the applicant. What is a central server? A central server is nothing but a computer dedicated to a certain purpose. In the present case, that purpose is asset management. Again, Chapter 7 Capital Asset Management System is set up for processing on-line disposal requests. Thus, it comprises computers, servers, databases, circuits/dedicated lines, and routers – all these equipment are needed for online transactions.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to OJO O. OYEBISI whose telephone number is (571) 272-8298. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30A.M-5:30P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JAMES TRAMMELL can be reached on (571)272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



ANNA COLBERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER